

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01

SCI-06 IO-13 RSR-01 /145 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 450

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3062

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USOSACLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 2835

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: OCON, NATO, MCAP, PINR

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING JUNE 7, 1973:

AGENDA ITEM I, INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

COPENHAGEN ALSO PASS TO MCGUIRE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL MPT

SUMMARY. UNDER ITEM I AT JUNE 7 DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, RADM POSER, NATO INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF, BRIEFED MINISTERS ON BASIC NATO INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES. SYG LUNS CHARACTERIZED BRIEFING AS IMPRESSIVE ALTHOUGH NOT REASSURING. FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER COMMENTED THAT HE APPRECIATED NATO BRIEFING MORE THAN BREZHNEV'S EXPLANATION (DURING VISIT TO FRG) OF SOVIET ARMS BUILDUP I WP AREA. BREZHNEV CLAIMED THERE HAD BEEN NO BUILDUP, RATHER A

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REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE- DESIGNATE SCHLESINGER SAID IT IS DESIRABLE TO RECOGNIZE FORMIDABLE SOVIET THREAT BUT CAUTIONED NATO ALLIES TO KEEP THREAT IN PERSPECTIVE AND NOT TALK OURSELVES INTO A PSYCHOLOGY OF

DEFEATISM; HE EMPHASIZED NATO OUTSPENDS THE WARSAW PACT ( WP) AND NATO MILITARY POWER AS SEEN FROM MOSCOW IS FORMIDABLE. SYG LUNS COMMENTED THAT WHILE NATO IS OUTSPENDING THE WP, PERSONNEL OUTLAYS ARE MUCH HIGHER IN NATO. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER ITEM I AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON JUNE 7, RADM POSER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF BRIEFED MINISTERS ON IMPORTANT NEW TRENDS IN WARSAW PACT ( WP) MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND ON SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE LAST YEAR TO THE BASIC NATO INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES ( MC 161 AND 255). PRESENTATION TO MINISTERS WAS ESSENTIALLY A CONDENSED VERSION OF THE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING GIVEN TO THE NAC ON MAY 23 ( IMSM-226-73; POUCHED TO DEFENSE). SIMILAR BRIEFING WILL BE GIVEN TO NAC MINISTERIAL IN COPENHAGEN ON JUNE 14.

2. BRIEFING STRESSED THAT WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THEIR FORCE LEVELS AND A HIGH STATE OF MILITARY READINESS. RADM POSER SAID GREATEST CONCERN TO NATO IS THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF SOVIET CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES IN AREAS FACING ACE, ADDING THAT SOVIET ON- GOING EQUIPMENT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS BACKED BY A STEADILY INCREASING R AND D EFFORT. BRIEFING ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT STRATEGIC MILITARY POSTURE OF THE SOVIET UNION IS FURTHER IMPROVING THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW DELTA CLASS NUCLEAR SUBMARINE. ALTHOUGH THE USSR STILL REMAINS INFERIOR TO NATO COUNTRIES IN TOTAL NUMBERS OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES AND WARHEADS AND IN THEIR TECHNOLOGY. CONCLUSION OF NATO INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IS THAT AS LONG AS PRESENT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIP OF POWER PREVAILS, A WP DECISION TO INITIATE WAR IN THE NATO AREA IS UNLIKELY.

3. BRIEFING WAS WELL RECEIVED; SYG LUNS CHARACTERIZED IT AS IMPRESSIVE, THOUGHTFUL, ALTHOUGH NOT REASSURING.

4. FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER SAID HE APPRECIATED THE NATO BRIEFING MORE THAN CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV'S RESPONSE TO  
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LEBER'S QUESTION ( AT TIME OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO FRG) ABOUT SOVIET ARMS BUILDUP, ESPECIALLY TANKS, IN WP AREA. BREZHNEV SAID WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WERE NOT UP TO DATE; HE CHARACTERIZED SOVIET ACTIVITIES AS A REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES, NOT A BUILDUP. BREZHNEV SAID WHEN YOU MOVE A DIVISION FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER WITHOUT REPLACING IT, THAT THIS WAS NOT A BUILDUP. LEBER CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE BELIEVED NATO'S BRIEFING MORE THAN BREZHNEV'S EXPLANATION.

5. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE- DESIGNATE SCHLESINGER SAID IT IS DESIRABLE TO KEEP IN MIND THE FORMIDABLE SOVIET THREAT BUT NATO ALLIES MUST KEEP THE THREAT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE OR WE MAY END UP PERSUADING OURSELVES THAT THE FUTURE IS GRIM,

EVEN HOPELESS. HE ADDED NATO IS OUTSPENDING THE WARSAW PACT AND THAT NATO ALLIES MUST MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES THEY ARE PRESENTLY INVESTING IN DEFENSE. SCHLESINGER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING CERTAIN FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, LIKE MODERNIZING THEIR NAVY WHICH HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY WEAK, BUT HE ADDED THAT AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING IN MOSCOW ON NATO CAPABILITIES WOULD BE MORE STARK THAN THE ONE JUST HEARD AT NATO. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THE NATO ALLIES MUST NOT TALK THEMSELVES INTO A PSYCHOLOGY OF DEFEATISM.

6. SYG LUNS COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIETS GET MORE MILITARY HARDWARE FOR THEIR MONEY SPENT ON DEFENSE AND THAT THE WEST (ESPECIALLY THE US) PAYS THEIR SOLDIERS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN THE SOVIETS; HENCE OUTLAYS FOR PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES ARE MUCH HIGHER IN THE WEST. QUESTIONING BY SYG LUNS ELICITED THAT THE SOVIETS' FORCES IN HUNGARY ARE STATIONED IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR BUT COULD BE USED IN THE CENTRAL REGION, AS THEY WERE AT THE TIME OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CRISIS IN 1968; AND THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE REACHED EQUALITY IN NUMBERS OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINES WITH THE WEST.

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